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FROM: Kurt Rauschenbach, Ph.D.

DATE: April 14, 2004

RE: Preliminary Amendment

CLIENT: USSN: 10/708,450 (VEX-001)

PAGES: 3 (Including this Cover Sheet)

COMMENTS.

Dear Sir,

Following this cover sheet, please find a Preliminary Amendment for the above-referenced case. Also included in this transmission is a General Transmittal Form.

Please send confirmation of receipt of this facsimile transmission by return facsimile. My fax number is 781.271.1527

Thank you,

Kurt Rauschenbach

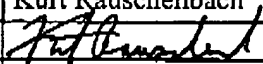
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PTO/SB/21 (08-03)

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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/708,450
	Filing Date	3/4/2004
	First Named Inventor	DOUGHTY
	Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned
	Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
(Not including Cited Reference(s)) Total Number of Pages in This Submission	3	Attorney Docket Number VEX-001

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please Identify below): Preliminary Amendment (1 pg.); and Facsimile Cover Sheet (1 pg.).
Remarks		
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT		
Firm or Individual name	Kurt Rauschenbach	
Signature		
Date	April 14, 2004	

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING		
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.		
Typed or printed name	Kurt Rauschenbach	
Signature		Date April 14, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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OFFICIAL PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: VEX-001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: DOUGHTY
SERIAL NO.: 10/708,450 GROUP NO.: Not yet assigned.
FILING DATE: March 4, 2004 EXAMINER: Not yet assigned.
TITLE: Microplasma Emission Spectrometer

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please enter the following preliminary amendment before beginning examination of the above-identified patent application.

In the Specification:

On page 1, before "Cross Reference to Related Applications" please insert

--Federal Research Statement

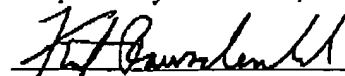
This Application was made, in part, with the United States Government support from NSF SBIR Phase I, under Grant Contract Number 0319494. The Government may have certain rights in the claimed invention.--

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Date: April 14, 2004
Reg. No.: 40,137

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Respectfully submitted,



Kurt Rauschenbach
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